

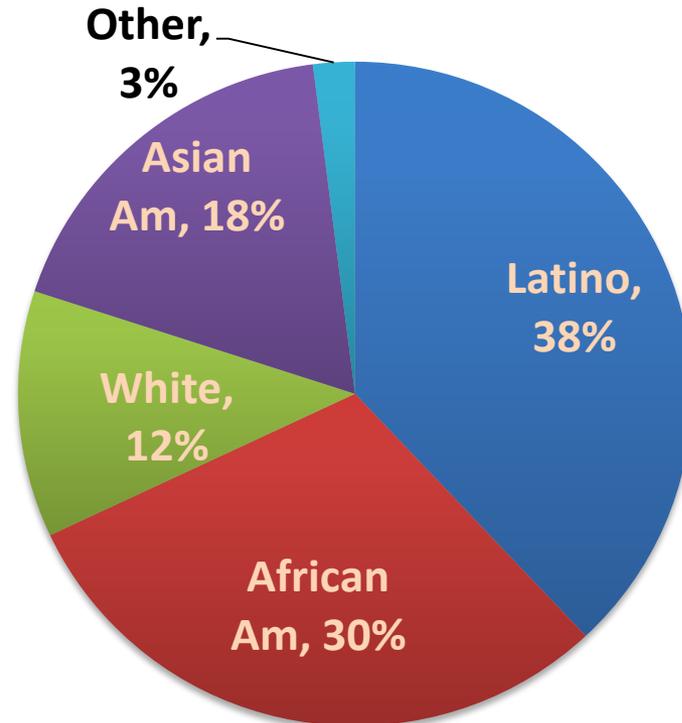


Envision Excellence and Equity Everywhere

Annual Report 2014-15

Our Students

- **27,933** students
- **38%** Latino, **30%** African-American, **18%** Asian/Pacific Islander, **12%** White
- **11.5%** are English Language Learners
 - Most ELLs are native Spanish speakers but we have a rising population of Arabic, Hindi, Urdu and Gujarati speakers as well.
- **13%** are in Special Education
- **70%** receive free or reduced lunch
- They are served by **40** schools



Our Mission

The JCPS equitably educates
ALL students
to become responsible, fulfilled
and successful global citizens.

Accomplishments

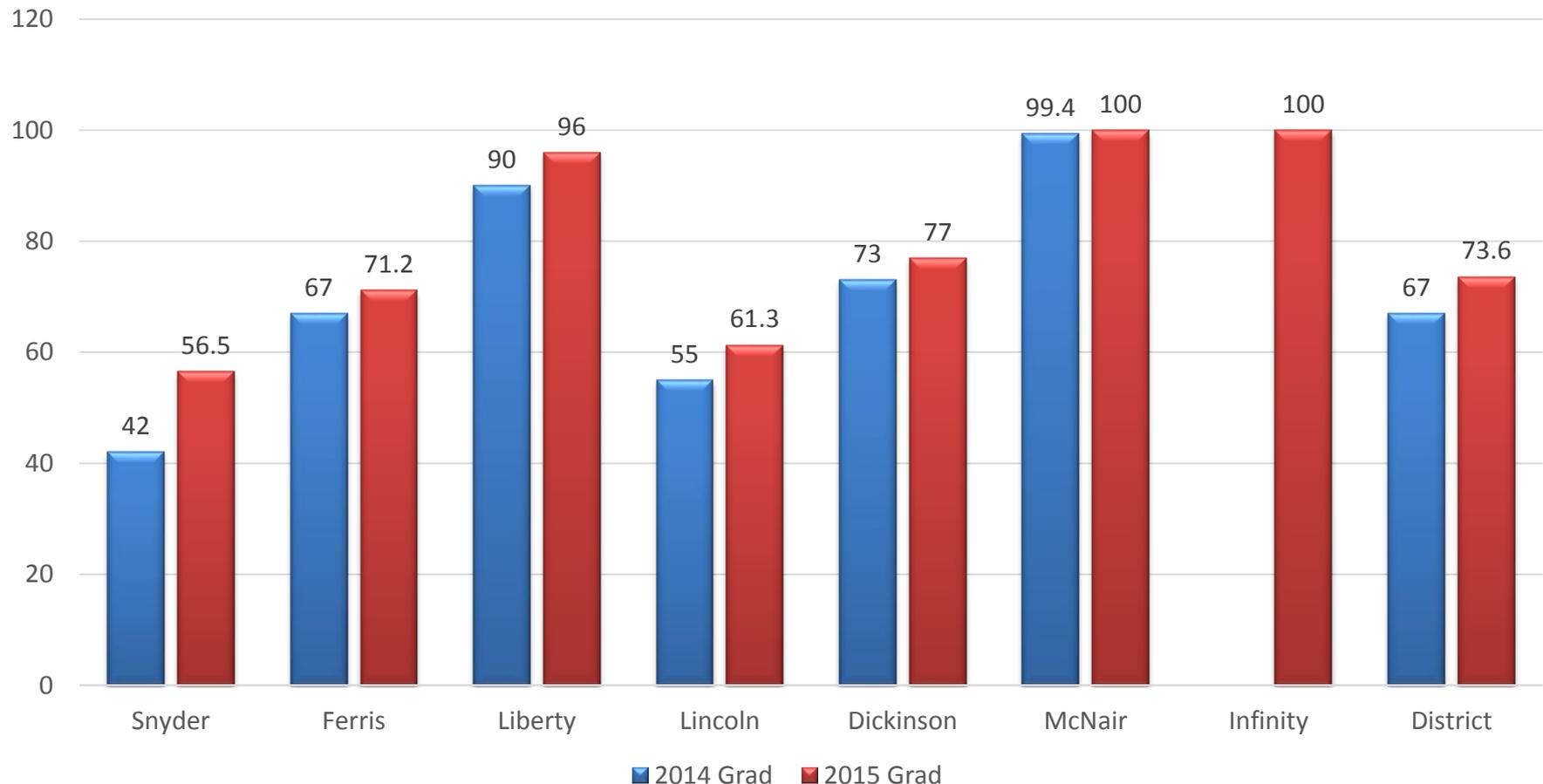


Academics

OUR MISSION

THE JCPS EQUITABLY EDUCATES ALL STUDENTS TO BECOME RESPONSIBLE, FULFILLED AND SUCCESSFUL GLOBAL CITIZENS

Graduation rates are up at all of our schools and the District overall graduation rate for cohort 2015 is **73.6%**



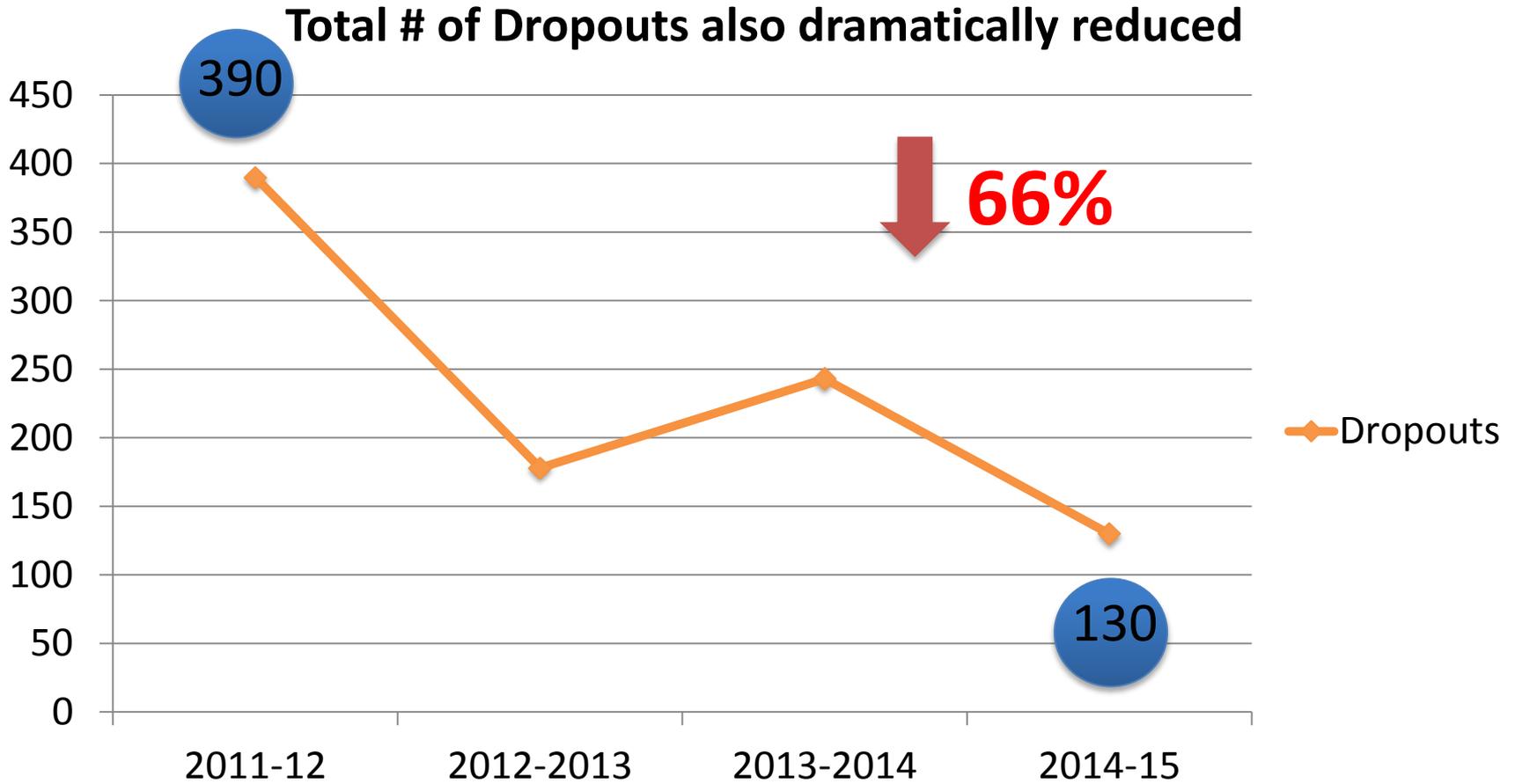
Closing the Gap--Minority Males Outpace District

Graduation Rate by Race and gender compared to Districtwide average

Year	District	AA	AA Male	Hisp	Hisp Male
2012	67.2	56.6	46.7	66.6	59.1
2015	73.6	66.2	59.9	71.9	67.3
Change	+6.4	+9.6	+13.2	+5.3	+8.2

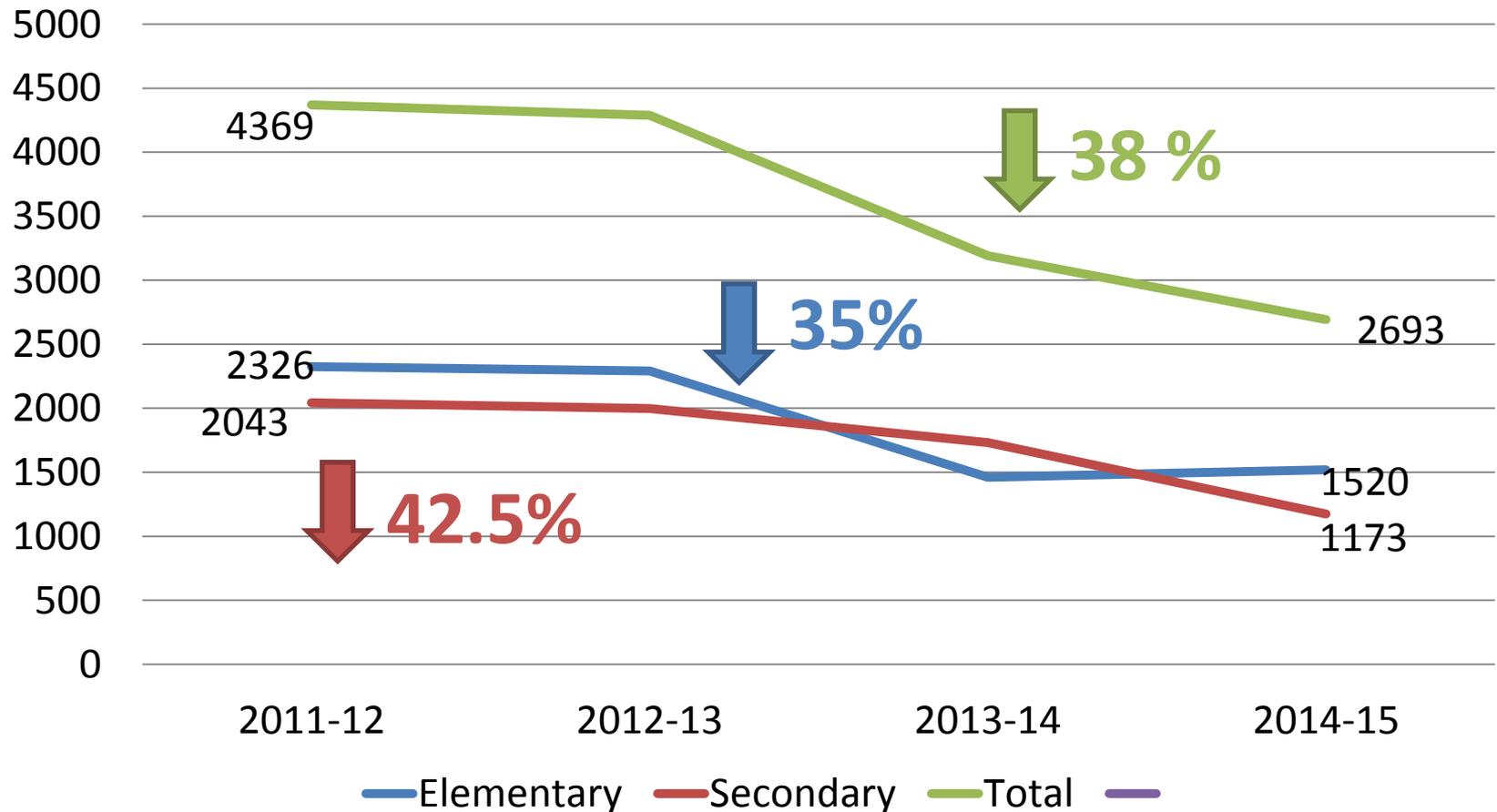
African American and Hispanic Males made greater gains than the District as a whole with African American males closing the gap by almost **7** percentage points.

Dropouts decreased substantially



Suspensions are down at all levels

Out-of-school suspensions serve as an indicator of school climate. Since 2011-12 the overall suspension rate has dropped **38%** overall.



More students take and pass college level courses

Advanced Placement courses give students the opportunity to take college level courses and earn college credit. Over the last three years, more students in all high schools have participated in the program and more are passing—thus earning actual college credit.

AP Program	2012	2015	% change
# students participating	752	836	+11%
# AP exams taken	1303	1465	+12.4%
3 + scores	432	506	+17%

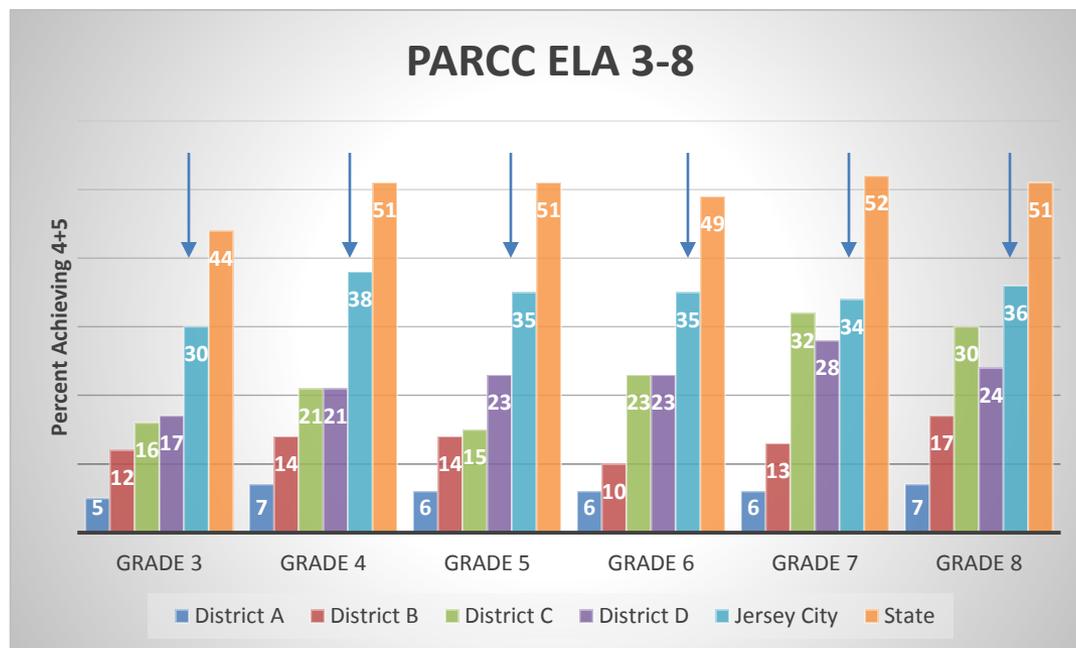
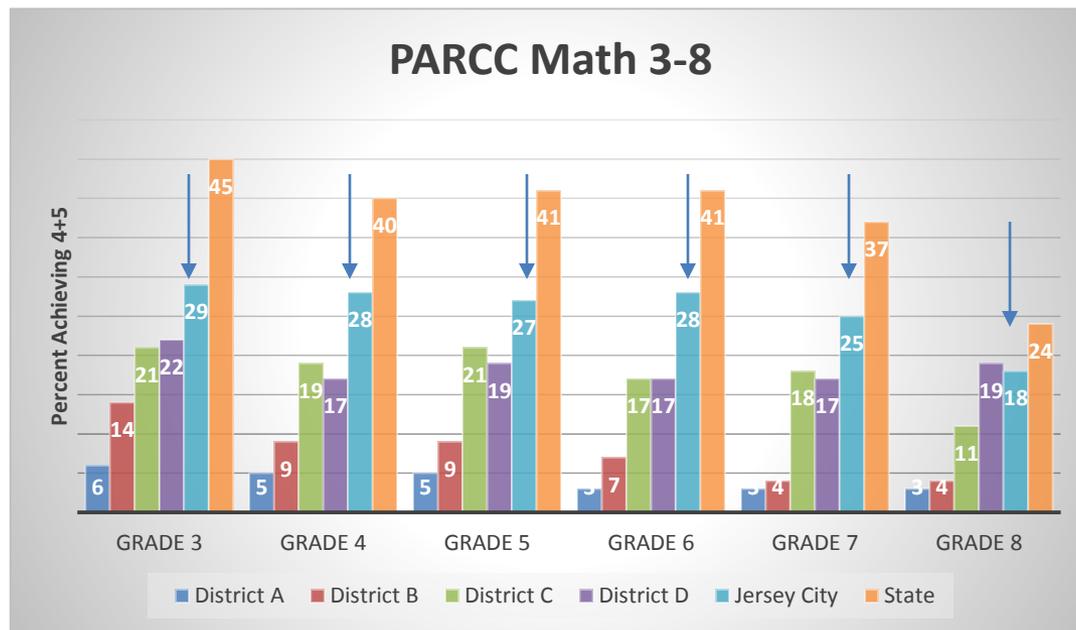
Preparing for PARCC 2015

- Upgraded technology in all schools including increasing internet bandwidth and providing more computers
- Trained teachers and administrators on how to administer the test
- Provided additional technical support during testing windows
- Implemented Learning.com so students could learn how to take online tests
- Used District servers for the test to ensure that students wouldn't be trying to logon to nationally used servers for the test
- Conducted building tests prior to actual tests to ensure readiness
- Supported principals in developing testing schedules to ensure least disruption to school program
- Supervisors supported teachers to anticipate the test and to increase the rigor in classroom instruction

PARCC 2015

While our schools continue to improve in critical areas, we know we have a long way to go in fulfilling our mission of providing an excellent education to all Jersey City students. These are baseline results and data gleaned from the tests will better focus our efforts where they are most needed in our district.

Because these are baseline data, we can only “compare” our results to similar districts throughout the state. However, we cannot be satisfied until we have closed the gaps with the state, between our schools and between ALL groups.



PARCC 2015

It is clear that we must continue our emphasis on rigorous, research-based instructional programs that are accessible to all.

Focused, Collaborative Professional Learning

- CCSS Alignment

- Best Practices

- Utilizing Quantitative and Qualitative Data to Make Instructional Decisions

Challenging, Relevant Content

- Expeditionary Learning, Springboard

- CTE Pathways

Integration of Technology

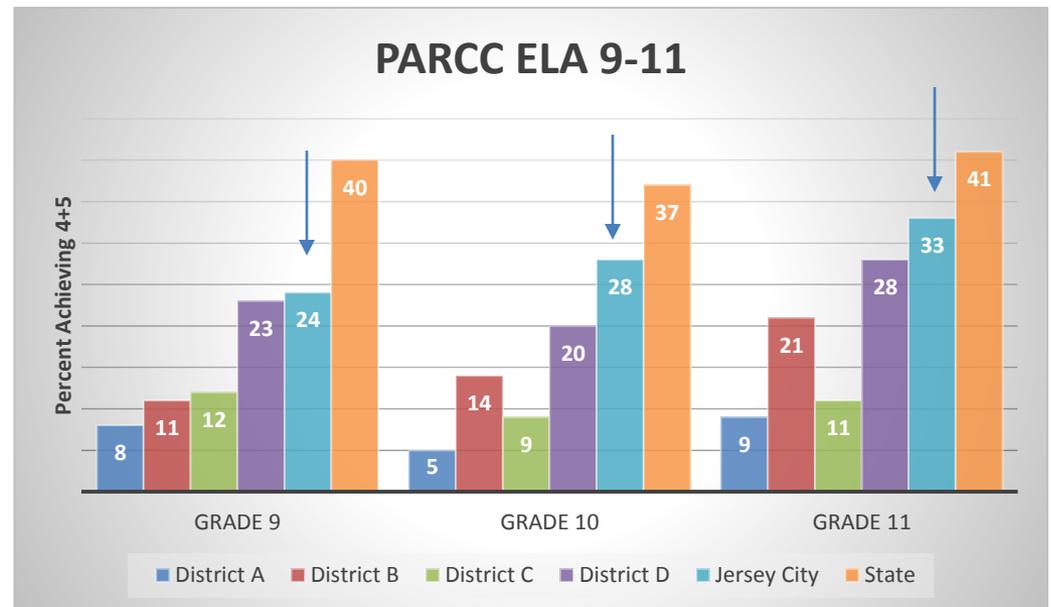
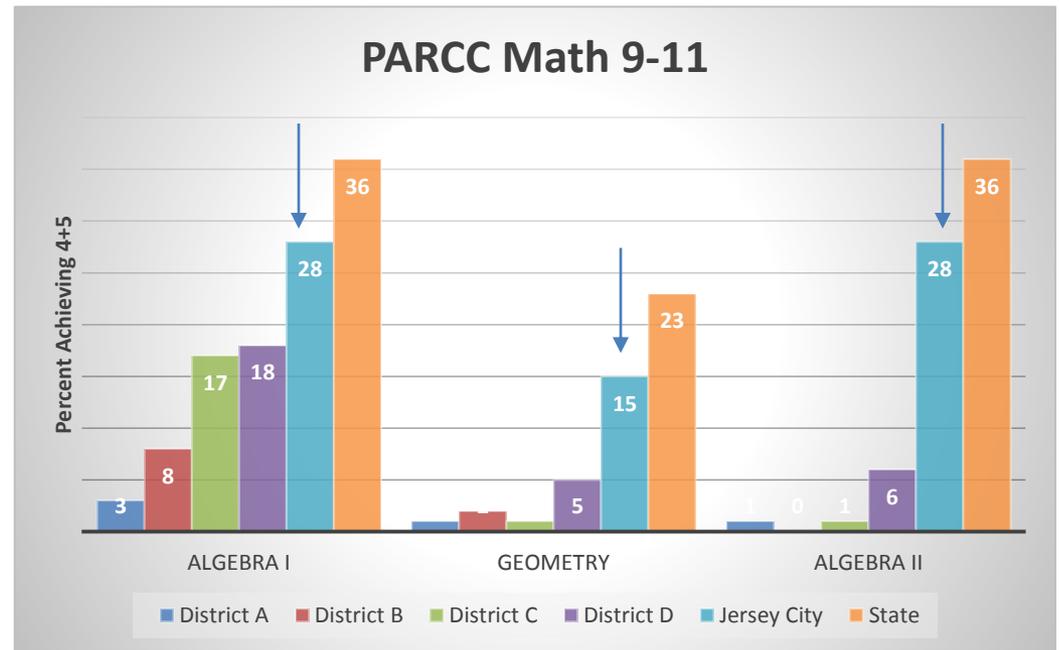
- Blended Learning Labs

- New Classrooms (Teach 2 One)

- 1:1 Initiatives

- MyOn

Revamped Interventions



STEM Initiatives

- **STEM Hybrid Partnership** with **Liberty Science Center** provides authentic STEM education to elementary students in and out of the classroom
- **Spaceflight Experiments Program** experiment created by students from McNair Academic HS selected to be conducted in space
- **Empower Design** enables students to design and build renewable energy devices



Jersey City's first STEAM high school, in partnership with NJCU and ISA

Blended Learning Initiatives

- **Google 1:1** provides Chromebooks to each participating child
- **Smarter Science Virtual Labs** students perform real experiments and collect data right in the classroom
- **myOn** online library that provides anytime access to a library of more than 10,000 books and has an innovative literacy platform
- **New Classrooms** innovative middle school math program that customizes instruction to student needs



RoboSteps teaches programming through real world robots

College Readiness



College Board Partnership

We have a full continuum of college preparation and readiness tools including

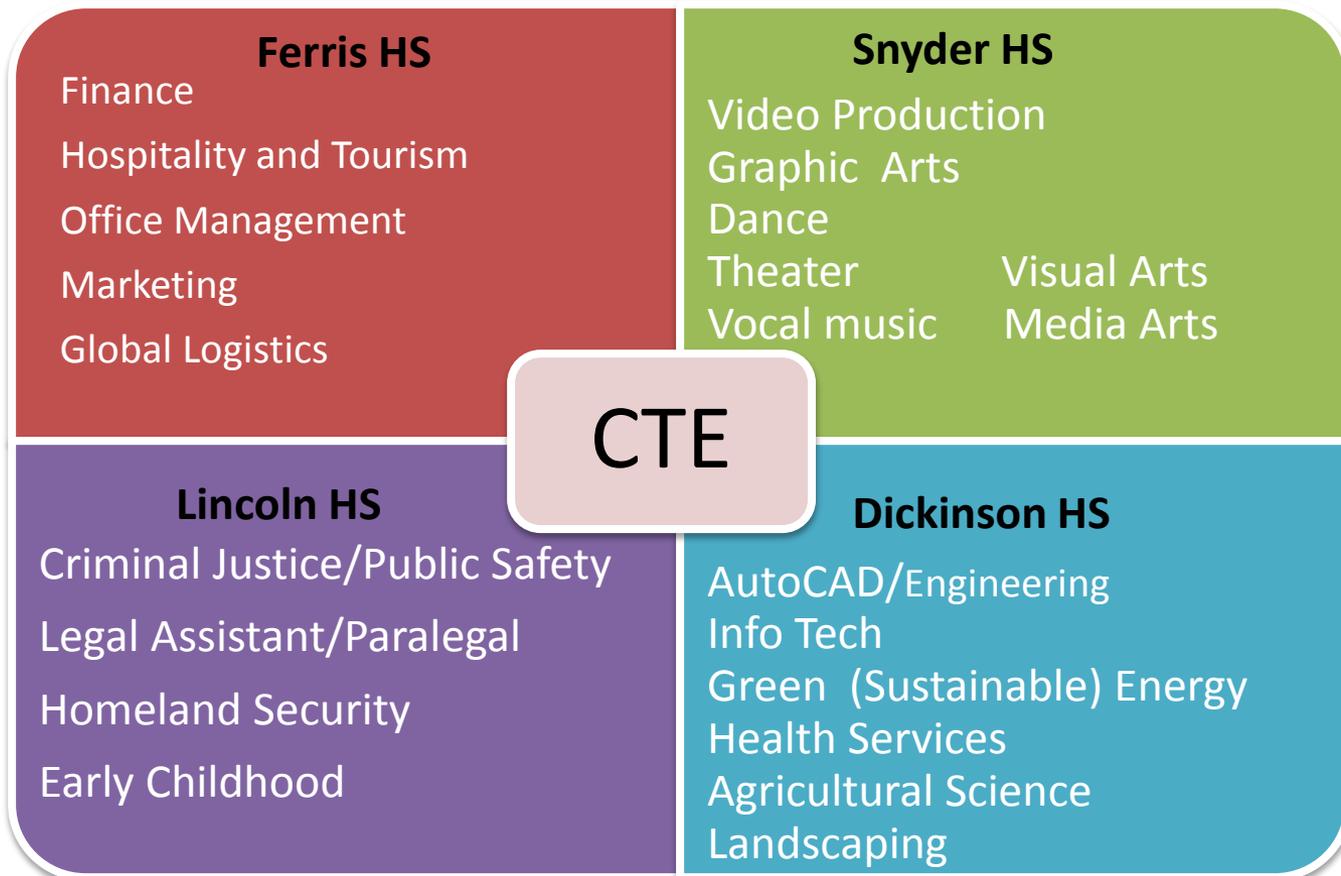
- **Springboard**
- **Advanced Placement**
- **PSAT** and **SAT**

- **Cambridge Program**
rigorous Pre-collegiate offerings sponsored by Cambridge University
- **Expeditionary Learning Pilot** provides project-based learning in middle school language arts



Expanding Career and Technical Education

Over 20 Career Pathways available to high school students:



Innovation HS is also developing a pathway in Social Responsible Engineering

Accomplishments



Personnel

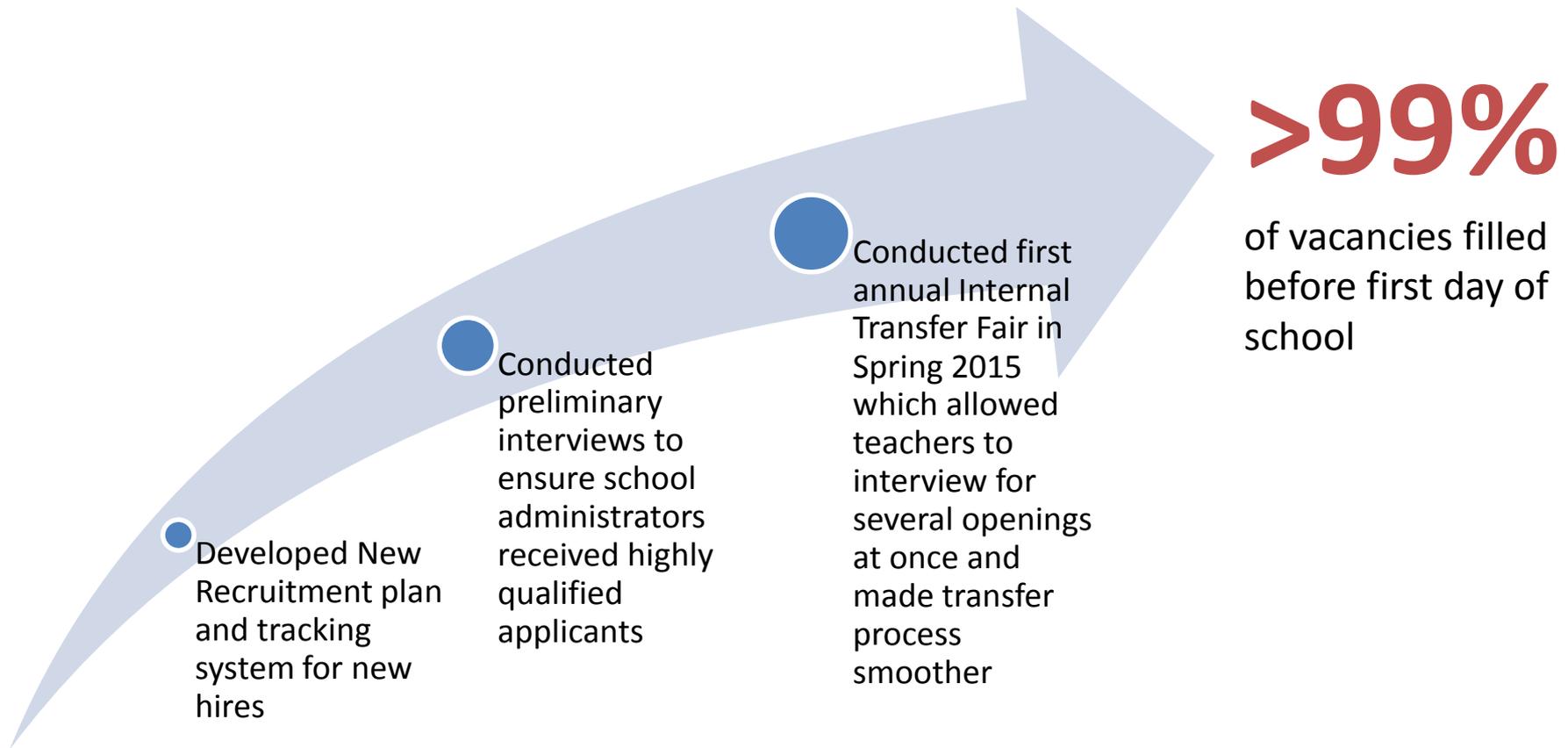
Return of Local Control

***WHEREAS**, the Jersey City School District has demonstrated substantial and sustained progress in improving its NJQSAC scores in **Personnel** from meeting an initial 58% of the performance indicators in 2007 to having met 78% in 2009, 68% in 2010, 73% in 2012 and 100% of the performance indicators in 2015, as well as substantial evidence that the public school district has adequate programs, policies and personnel in place and in operation to ensure that the demonstrated progress in **Personnel** will be sustained;*

Met key targets for Personnel

- ✓ Develop and implement a proactive recruitment strategy to build a candidate pipeline and attract the most effective educators (teachers and administrators) to JCPS.
- ✓ Provide ongoing communication and follow-up with candidates. Create timelines, protocols and template emails to ensure consistent communication.
- ✓ Change timelines to begin the transfer process earlier and begin recruitment in early spring.
- ✓ Own substitute services

Improved HR to have fewer than 1% vacancy rate



Settled contracts with labor units

- ✓ Finalized agreements with:
 - Administrators and Supervisors Association (ASA)
 - JCEA—teachers
 - ESA—Secretaries and Clerical workers
 - NCASA—Non-Certified Administrators
 - Teamsters, local 2262
- ✓ Resolved many outstanding issues



Launched the Residency Initiative



Return of Local Control-Operations

***WHEREAS**, the Jersey City School District has demonstrated substantial and sustained progress in improving its NJQSAC scores in **Operations** from meeting an initial 74% of the performance indicators in 2007 to having met 84% in 2009, 100% in 2010, 94% in 2012 and 95% of the performance indicators in 2015, as well as substantial evidence that the public school district has adequate programs, policies and personnel in place and in operation to ensure that the demonstrated progress in **Operations** will be sustained;*

Accomplishments



Facilities

Key targets for Facilities

- ✓ Define standards for facilities, technology and safety
- ✓ Identify technology and security needs
- ✓ Address facilities challenges by leveraging in-house talent for renovations when possible

...to support learning

Improving our Learning Environments

Over the last year we have made significant improvements to our schools:

- **Cafeteria Upgrades:** PS 5, PS 12, PS 29 and Dickinson HS
- **Pool Upgrades:** PS 22, Ferris HS, PS 39
- **Gym Upgrades:** PS 29, Ferris HS (both in Academy Building and Main), MS 40



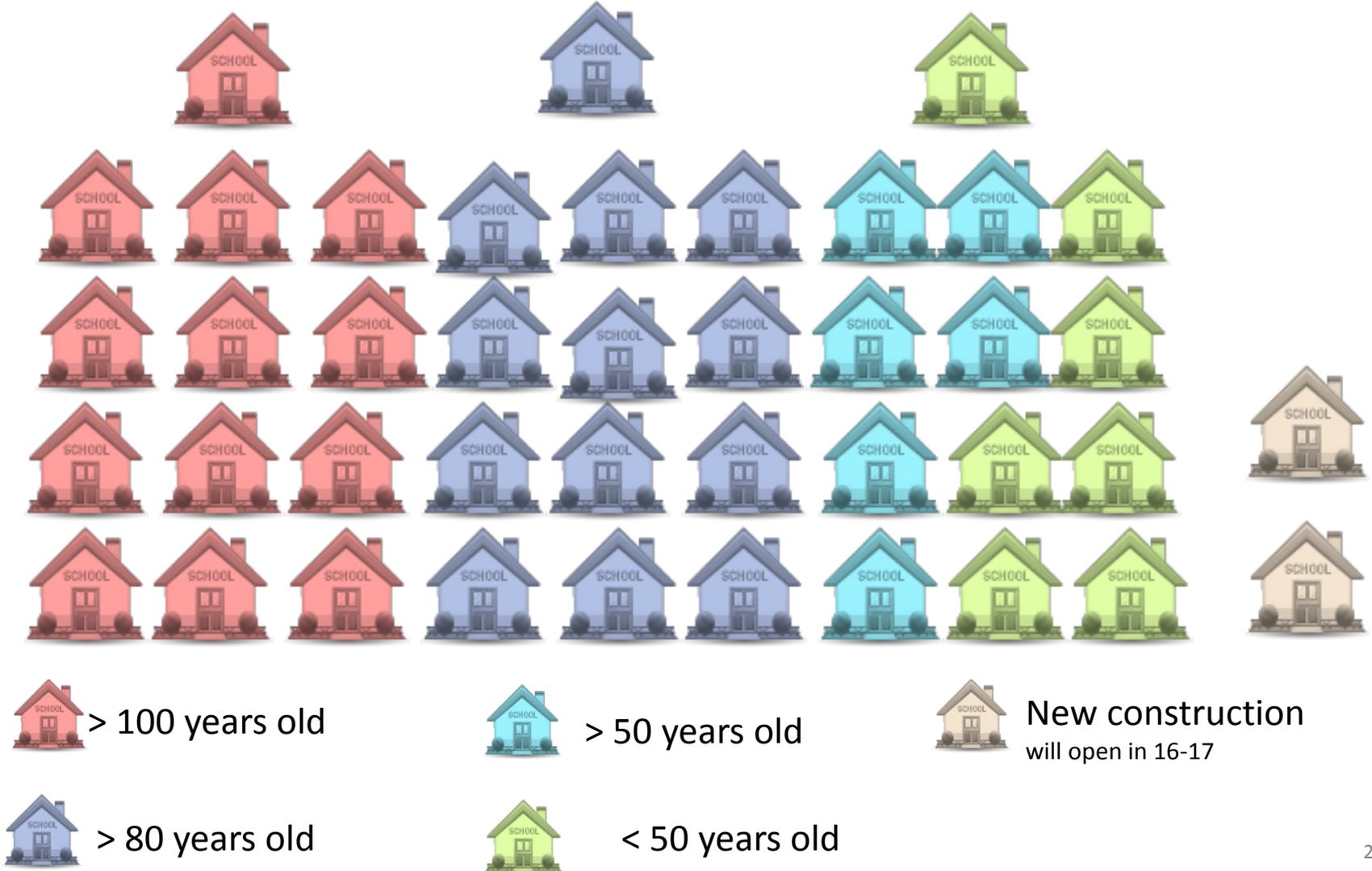
New Learning Environments

- **Classroom Expansion:** MS 4 for New Classrooms, Relocated Classrooms at PS 41 (removal of trailers)
- **Library Upgrade:** Innovation HS
- **Hallway Enhancements:** Snyder HS, PS 12
- **New Computer Lab:** PS 27
- **New Science Labs:** Ferris HS



Facilities Challenges and Progress

Aging buildings present maintenance and financial challenges. We estimate that infrastructure needs will require an investment of **\$50,000,000**



Breakfast Program wins recognition



Accomplishments



Finance

Balanced Budget

- ✓ Balanced budget in face of challenges:
 - Anticipated flat funding and 2% limit on tax-levy increases
 - Infrastructure costs to maintain buildings = \$50 million
 - Increase in salaries pursuant to negotiations with all unions
 - Increased cost of medical benefits
 - Rising cost of Charters
 - Shortage of Pre-K space

- ✓ No lay-offs

Revenue Sources

The District projected revenue sources, assuming a 2% tax levy increase and 0% in general fund State Aid and Federal Aid increase. Increase in State Aid in FY 2016-2017 is due to \$5M increase in the Preschool Carry Over amount.

Source	2012-13	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
State Aid	\$487,609,983	\$488,542,305	\$492,302,025	\$490,930,863	\$495,604,845
Fed Aid	\$34,284,800	\$25,135,999	\$27,458,408	\$28,300,095	\$28,445,296
Tax Levy	\$106,446,709	\$108,336,848	\$109,961,901	\$112,161,139	\$114,404,362
Reapp Fund bal.	\$30,000,000	\$36,000,000	\$32,904,326	\$31,750,000	\$31,750,000
Other Local revenue	\$2,988,833	\$1,988,833	\$1,988,834	\$1,965,486	\$1,965,486
Total	\$661,330,325	\$660,003,985	\$664,615,494	\$665,107,583	\$672,169,989
Increase from previous year		(\$1,326,340)	\$4,611,509	\$492,089	\$7,062,406

Awards Won

Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO)

Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting

Honors school districts for excellence and best practices in financial reporting (transparency and fiscal accountability)

Fewer than 30 districts in NJ won this award

Government Finance Officers Association

Excellence in Financial Reporting

Won by only three districts in NJ out of over 600

Strong Audit findings:

- Unmodified opinion on the financial statements
“Clean opinion”
- Unmodified opinion on compliance for federal and state grants
- No material weaknesses

Parent relationships with their schools

Parents feel valued

Parental input is important to school administrators	%	#	Net
Strongly Agree	56.5	2774	96.5%
Agree	40.0	1960	
Disagree	2.9	144	3.6%
Strongly Disagree	0.7	33	

Parents and teachers work as a team to educate my child	%	#	Net
Strongly Agree	58.2	2865	95.7%
Agree	37.5	1846	
Disagree	3.5	173	4.2%
Strongly Disagree	0.7	36	

Parents feel informed and involved

My child's school makes an effort to keep me informed	%	#	Net
Strongly Agree	49.2	2423	93.9%
Agree	44.7	2200	
Disagree	4.7	232	6.1%
Strongly Disagree	1.4	69	

I attend open houses, parent-teacher conferences or other meetings*	%	#	Net
Strongly Agree	50.8	2176	96.4%
Agree	45.6	2356	
Disagree	3.1	269	3.6%
Strongly Disagree	0.5	40	

* Many surveys completed during report card night thus results may not be representative

The Road to Full Local Control

In order to regain control of Instruction and Programs, the last area to be returned, we have developed extensive

District Improvement Plans in:

- English Language Arts
- Math
- Special Education
- English Language Learners

These plans will be our map to help us achieve our goal of ***Equity and Excellence*** in all of our schools—(our *Emerald City*)!

